

Local Action for Community Energy Resilience

Spotlight on the Collaboration of REN and CCA Programs

Advancing energy resilience across California by supporting Community Resilience Center (CRC) development

? The path to community resilience can feel like a maze...



But when Regional Energy Network (REN) and Community Choice Aggregator (CCA) programs work together, communities get something rare:

a complete pathway to community resilience, from initial assessment to final install.

PATHWAY

Energy Resilience Action Plan (ERAP) Program

Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN)

The ERAP program identifies and evaluates resilience opportunities, helping agencies prioritize projects and build readiness for implementation. SoCalREN's technical experts:

- Identify facility resilience potential
- Map climate and community vulnerabilities
- Provide no-cost technical assistance
- Engage community stakeholders
- Help agency staff to build project readiness

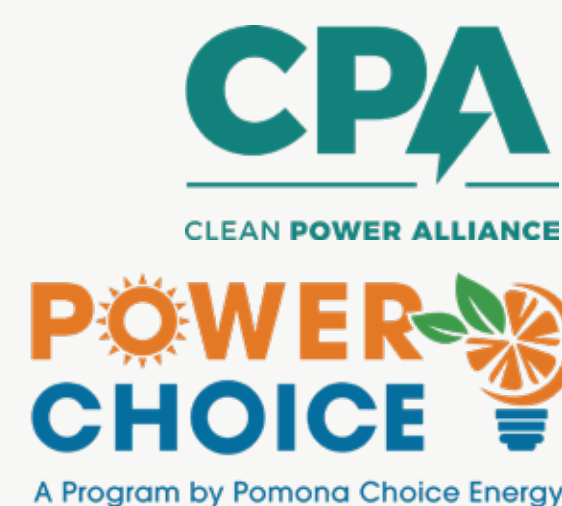


Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs)

Clean Power Alliance, Power Choice

CCAs transform resilience plans into deployable projects through financing, procurement, and implementation support. CCAs put communities first by:

- Helping install solar + battery storage systems to critical facilities
- Requiring no upfront cost, no direct cost to participants
- Managing full process from site assessment to installation
- Ensuring backup power reserve for emergencies
- Monitoring and verifying system performance



POWER

CASE STUDY

The City of Pomona's Path to Resilience

In 2013, the City of Pomona enrolled in SoCalREN. In 2022, the city was selected to participate in the ERAP pilot program to identify future sites for Community Resilience Centers.

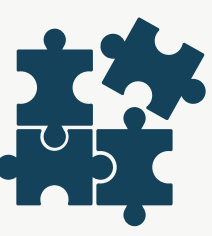
2022



Identifying a Community Resilience Center

Palomares Park Community Center, a high-traffic senior and community hub, was selected following a facility assessment and on-site energy audits. As an important gathering space with high energy use, adding solar generation and backup power would allow the Center to serve the community during outages or emergencies.

JAN 2024



Wide Network, One Vision

The City of Pomona was awarded a **Transformative Climate Communities grant from the CA Strategic Growth Council** to implement climate-based projects, thanks to partnerships with The Energy Coalition and other local organizations. Under the **Pomona Activated for Community Transformation and Sustainability** (Pomona ACTS) partnership, one of the grant projects includes an \$800,000 investment at Palomares Park for future solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery installations to develop the site as a CRC.

MAR 2026



Strategic Partnership Leads to \$0 Upfront Costs

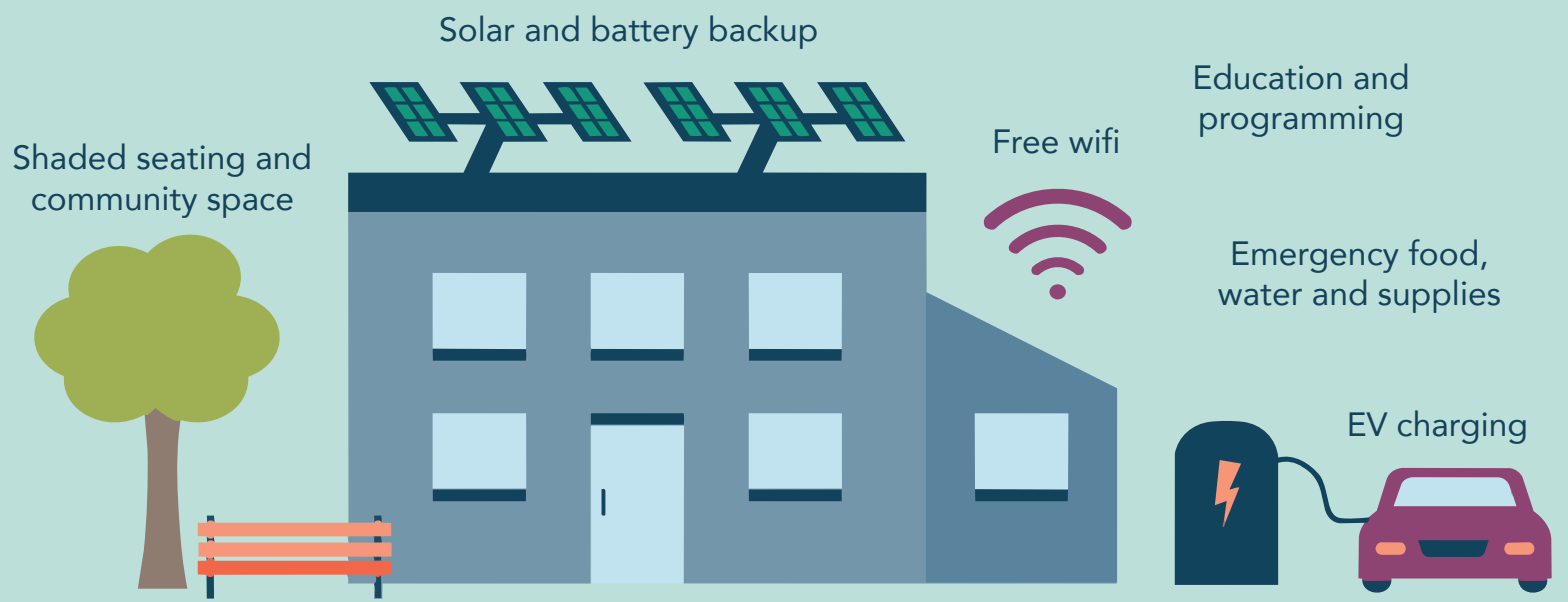
With grant funding in place, the City enlisted **Participate Energy** to design and finance the solar and battery system. Participate Energy was already a trusted partner through **Pomona Choice Energy**, the city's community choice aggregator, and structured a **Power Purchase Agreement** to finance, install, own, and operate the system—requiring **no upfront cost** from the City. In March 2026, Pomona City Council approved the partnership, recognizing it as a replicable model for bringing more CRCs to the City.

JUN 2026



Installation Underway, Community Impact Ahead

Contracts are currently being finalized as design, permitting, and interconnection move forward in parallel. Installation of a 52.8 kWdc solar PV system and 120 kWh battery is planned for fall 2026, with commissioning expected in early 2027. Once operational, the system is sized to **offset roughly 96% of the facility's energy use and generate approximately \$20,000 in first-year savings**—ensuring Palomares Park can stay open and powered for the community during outages and emergencies.



What is a Community Resilience Center?

CRCs provide shelter, energy, and relief, helping communities stay safe and connected when they need it most as a:

- Gathering place for the community
- Cooling center during a heat wave
- Power source for charging during a power outage
- Shelter with food and resources during an emergency

Solar and battery installations at the Palomares Park Solar and battery installations at the Palomares Park Community Center (pictured left) are expected to break ground in fall 2026.

LESSONS LEARNED



Lead with numbers

A scoped project with utility data-informed financials, estimated savings, system sizing, and a clear path to execution generates stakeholder buy-in and gets projects moving.



Enlist well-rounded support

A turnkey partner can offer a host of benefits, from zero upfront costs and long-term financing, to minimized procurement complexity and increased staff capacity.



Make a stronger case with community resilience

Connecting infrastructure upgrades to emergency preparedness and community resilience opens doors to grant funding that an energy savings-only frame would have missed.



Build your foundation on community partnerships

Developing and maintaining relationships with public agency staff, regional partners, and community-based organizations make technical and financial breakthroughs possible.

TAKE ACTION IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- 1 **Create or participate in a planning program** that produces project-ready site data, not just reports.
- 2 **Identify your CCA or financing partner** before you need them and build the relationship early on.
- 3 **Sequence planning into procurement** with clear handoff points so good plans don't stall.
- 4 **Focus on disadvantaged neighborhoods** first to make the largest impact possible in your community.
- 5 **Partner with your local REN**, such as SoCalREN, to start assessing and identifying CRC candidates in your community.



The City of Pomona and partners celebrate the TCC grant award in January 2024, as pictured in Pomona's newspaper.